



State of California Board of Registration for Professional Engineers and Professional Land Surveyors



1998 Sunset Review Report

Prepared for
California Legislature
Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Overview of the Current Regulatory Program

Background and Description of the Board and the Regulated Profession	
History of the Board and Regulation of Engineers and Land	
Surveyors	1
Board Composition	2
Licensing Data	2
Table 1: Licensing Data	3
Budget and Staff	
Table 2: Fee Schedules	5
Table 3: Revenues & Expenditures	5
Table 4: Expenditures by Program Component	6
Table 5: Analysis of Fund Condition	6
Licensure Requirements	
Education, Experience and Examination Requirements	7
Engineer/Land Surveyor in Training	8
Civil Engineer	8
Other Professional Engineering Disciplines	8
Land Surveyor	9
Time Frame for Registration by the Board	9
Continuing Education/Competency Requirements	9
Comity/Reciprocity With Other States	10
Enforcement Activity	
Enforcement Data	11
Enforcement Program Overview	12
Case Aging Data	12

Ci	tations and Fines	
Re	esults of Complainant Survey	
Enfo	rcement Expenditures and Cost Recovery 17	
Eı	nforcement Expenditures 17	
Co	ost Recovery Efforts	
Resti	tution to Consumers	
Comp	olaint Disclosure Policy	
Cons	umer Outreach and Education	
	Response to Identified Issues and	
Recom	mendations	
Issue 1	Should the Joint Committee support a complete revision of the Professional Engineers' Act ("PE Act Rewrite") as proposed by the Board?	23
Issue 2	Should the State continue to regulate the practice of Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering and Land Surveying, and the fifteen (15) title act disciplines of engineering?	27
Issue 3	Should all engineers be allowed to perform "supplemental work" in other engineering disciplines, as long as they are competent to perform in these areas based on their education, training, and experience?	36
Issue 4	Should the Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors be continued as an independent board, or should its operation and functions be assumed by the Department of Consumer Affairs?	41
Issue 5	Should the composition of the Board be changed?	43
Issue 6	Should the exemption from licensure for employees of industry be expanded for engineers who either contract with, or provide consulting services for, exempt industries?	45
Issue 7	Should the requirements to take the Engineer-in-Training examination be changed or eliminated?	47

Issue 8	Should a separate California "Seismic Principles" examination be required for <u>all</u> engineering disciplines, or should it be combined with national examinations for specified engineering disciplines?	49
Issue 9	Should the "Engineering Surveying" examination required for candidates of civil engineering be changed or eliminated?	51
Issue 10	Should the Board eliminate the current California examination for "Structural" (Civil) Engineers and instead utilize the national examination?	53
Issue 11	Should the Board perform a task analysis on the California Professional Land Surveyors examination and utilize the (national) NCEES Professional Land Surveyors examination, along with the California-specific examination, in order to provide land surveyors comity with other states?	57
Issue 12	Should the six year experience requirement for licensure by increased to eight years as recommended by the Board?	63
Issue 13	Should there be a continuing education requirement for all engineers, prior to renewal of a license, as recommended by the Board?	65
Issue 14	Should there be a "retired status" for engineers and land surveyors as recommended by the Board?	67
Issue 15	Should the Board be granted legislative authority to define in regulations a code of professional practice?	69